

Replacing The Group Gasket On Your E61 Machine

Introduction

This instructional will cover replacing the group gasket on your E61 group espresso machine. Machines like the Expobar, Profitec, ECM, Rocket, etc all run these types of group heads. You can typically tell if it is worn, as there will be water or coffee leaking from around the portafilter itself while brewing. The manufacturer recommends these be replaced once a year.

⚠ Please note

The group gaskets can be very stubborn to get out. Start by using the flathead, if it seems like it does not want to come out, switch to the screw. If you pry too hard with the flathead, you risk damaging the shower screen.

Tools:

- Flathead screwdriver
- Screw with thick threading
- Blunt object

Just to be sure you have an E61 group machine, this will apply to all machines whose group head looks like this:

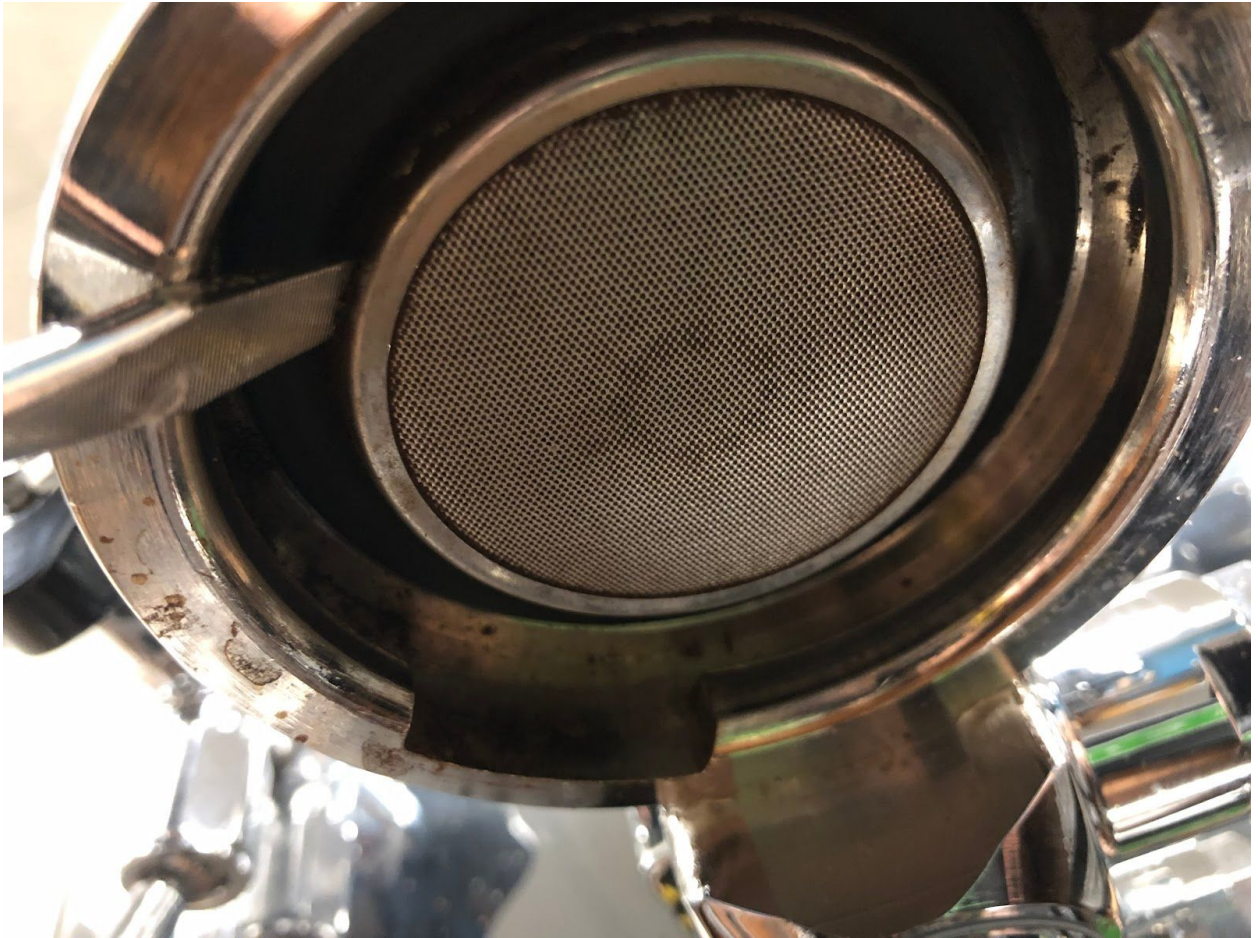


Your group gasket is located up in the head of the machine, where you lock in your portafilter. If you have the standard rubber gasket, it should just be a thick, black gasket:

The group gasket is what actually holds the shower screen in place. So by prying at the shower screen, you will actually work the gasket loose. Prying at the screen, **if done appropriately and the gasket is not too stuck**, is a good way to remove both items for cleaning without damaging either component.



You will use the flathead to pry at the shower screen as shown in the pictures below:





Place the end of the flathead on the small lip that runs around the diameter of the shower screen. Pry in one spot, and then move to another and pry again. Similar to the way you would open a paint can.

If the gasket seems to be stuck in there and doesn't want to budge, you may need to sacrifice the gasket. The best way to remove stubborn gaskets is to take a screw with some thick threading on it, and just drive it a few threads into the gasket, then pull on it. If you can't pull it out by hand, gripping the screw with a pair of pliers works as well. This may get the whole gasket out at once, if the gasket is brittle, it may come out in chunks. **You don't want to drive the screw in too far, as you risk hitting the back lip of the shower screen, or damaging the inside of the group.**



Once the gasket is removed, you should be looking at something like this:



You can see in the picture above the lip that we referred to previously. You can also see how the gasket holds the shower screen onto the group. The gasket goes around the shower screen, against the lip, and then holds everything into the group with the friction from the gasket. Take this time to clean off your shower screen, soak it if it has a good degree of build-up, and once clean, put the gasket back over the shower screen.

When putting the gasket on, take note of if there is any writing on the gasket. A lot of them will have a production number, manufacturer name, part #, etc. on one side. **This is the side that will face up into the group:**



When you're ready to put everything back up into the group, you will want to use a blunt object to do so. You don't want to use anything sharp or with a point, as this could pierce or damage the gasket when pushing it back up into place. For the purpose of this write-up, I'm using the rounded back end of a wrench to push it back up into place:





Similarly to when you were prying at the gasket, you will want to work your way around the gasket, pushing up until it is fully seated. Once seated, you should be good to go.